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## The 16th Congressional District.

KOUNTZ AND COFFROTH.

## OPINION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Two papers, purporting to be returns of the election in the 16th Congressional District, have been sent to the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The District is composed of the five counties of Adams, Bedford, Franklin, Fulton, and Somerset. One of these papers is signed by four persons, viz: Messrs. Mann, of Bedford county; Laker, of Franklin; Winter, of Fulton; and Diehl, of Adams, styling themselves a majority of the return judges of the above named counties; and the papers goes on to state that they examined and counted the votes cast for Congress in the district, and that Messrs. Coffroth and Kountz had each a specified number of votes in the respective counties of Adams, Bedford, Franklin and Fulton, and that Mr. Coffroth having a majority of all the votes cast as counted before the board, is declared duly and legally elected. It is further stated in the paper that Somerset was not represented by a judge, or otherwise, in the board, and that notice of the time and place of meeting was given to the return judge elected from Somerset, who was in the borough of Chambersburg (where the meeting was held) on the day of meeting.

The other paper is signed by five persons, viz: Messrs. Wills, of Somerset county; Curt, of Adams; Wilhelm, of Franklin; Winter, of Fulton, and Peck, of Bedford, styling themselves as being appointed return judges of the election held in the several counties composing the 16th Congressional District, viz: Adams, Bedford, Franklin, Fulton and Somerset. The paper goes on to state that having carefully examined the returns of the said several districts, and added together the votes therein contained, according to law, they certify that Messrs. Kountz and Coffroth had each a specified number of votes in the respective counties of Adams, Bedford, Franklin, Fulton and Somerset, and declared that Mr. Kountz, having received the greatest number of legal votes, is duly elected. Both the bodies claiming to be district return judges met on the day and at the place fixed by law.

The respective candidates having requested a hearing, were heard by themselves and counsel, and evidence was received on the question, Who were the return judges of the district? This evidence left no material question of fact in doubt, and the result may be briefly stated thus: Mr. Wills was the regularly selected district judge for Somerset, and Mr. Winter for Fulton. All the signers of the respective papers were among the county return judges of their respective counties, after the withdrawal in consequence of dissatisfaction with the proceedings of the majority. Messrs. Curt, of Adams, and Peck, of Bedford, were selected as district return judges by the majority of the return judges of their respective counties, after the withdrawal above stated. Mr. Wilhelm, of Franklin, was selected as district return judge by the return judges of that county; at the first meeting, and of course, before the soldiers' vote had been counted. Mr. Laker, of the same county, was selected by the return judges of the county, at their last meeting, and after the soldiers' vote had been counted. At that meeting, upon the suggestion of the clerk, Mr. Wilhelm, who was president of the board, stated that he had been informed that the selection of a district return judge, before all the votes had been counted, was illegal, upon which a motion was made, and carried to proceed to a selection. The vote was taken and Mr. Laker had a majority, and the returns were accordingly placed in his charge. Mr. Wilhelm was nominated, but had not a majority. He never resigned the appointment which had already been made, but, no doubt, under the impression that such appointment was illegal—he put the question on proceeding to a new selection, announced the result, and as president signed a certificate, under seal, of Mr. Laker's selection as district return judge.

On this state of facts the Governor has requested my opinion on the question, which of the two candidates ought to be proclaimed by him as having been returned as elected? In a recent opinion I have stated my reasons, which need not be here recapitulated, for arriving at the conclusion that the Governor has no right to go behind the returns for the purpose of inquiring into their correctness—that his functions in regard to them are strictly ministerial. In the present instance it happens (it is believed for the first time) that two different bodies of men each claiming to be the board of district return judges, present papers which they style returns of the election. The Governor is of course compelled to endeavor to ascertain, by such evidence as can be had, which of these papers is signed by the lawful district return judges, just as every ministerial officer is bound to satisfy himself of the authenticity of an official paper, on which he is required to act.

It is well established that (unless otherwise expressly provided) an authority of a public nature, conferred on three or more persons jointly, may be executed by a majority at a meeting lawfully held, and of which all have had legal notice, and that the meeting and proceedings of such a body are presumed to be regular, in the absence of proof to the contrary. But a minority of such a body cannot, by withdrawing (for whatever reasons) from the majority and proceeding to act independently, vest in themselves the authorities which the law has conferred on the whole and permits to be exercised by a majority as above stated.

The general election law of 1839 provides that when two or more counties shall comprise a district for the choice of a member of Congress, the judges of the election in each county, having met, the clerks shall make out a fair statement of all the votes which shall have been given at such election, which shall be signed by said judges and attested by the clerks, and that one of the said judges shall take charge of such certificate, and shall produce the same at a meeting of the judges from each county. Keeping in view the principles above stated, which are of universal application, the minority of the judges in Adams and Bedford had plainly no authority to appoint

a clerk or cause votes to be added up, or returns to be made out, or in fine to perform any of the functions of the body of county judges of the election. The conclusion is inevitable that Messrs. Curt, of Adams, and Peck, of Bedford, who claimed to act as judges from those counties at the meeting of one judge from each county, and present returns made and signed by such minorities, were not entitled so to act, nor could the returns which they presented be legally received.

The law, as has been seen, requires that the certificate having been made out by the clerks, shall be signed by the county judges of the election. It is, of course, in the possession and under the control of the body of such judges when assembled according to law. Of course, that body must direct it to be placed in the charge of the member whom the majority may designate, to attend the meeting of one judge from each county, and present it to that meeting, and assist in making up the returns of the district. I can see no ground for the assumption that a judge cannot be designated for these purposes, just as lawfully before the certificate has been made out and signed as afterwards; and therefore I conceive that the selection of Mr. Wilhelm was entirely legal. But that selection did not constitute him the holder of an office. He was rather a committee of one, to perform certain duties. But, whether he be styled an officer or committee, in my opinion, the subsequent selection of Mr. Laker, and the actual placing of the certificate in his charge completely discharged Mr. Wilhelm and overrode his appointment.

The result is that of the five persons who have signed the papers styling Mr. Kountz to be elected, three had no legal authority to act in the capacity which they assumed, and I am therefore of opinion that the Governor ought not to base his proclamation on that paper as a return.

In regard to the other paper, it is signed by four persons who appear to have been legally designated by the judges of election in their respective counties. The judge from Somerset, though he had notice, neglected or refused to attend the meeting, or at any rate failed to attend it. The duty of the four judges who did attend is clearly pointed out by law. It was to "cast up the several county returns and make duplicate returns of all the votes given," for the office in the district, "and of the name of the person elected." Instead of doing this, they omitted to count the vote of Somerset, apparently by reason of the non-attendance of the judge from that county. It has been suggested that as they had not those returns they could not count them, which is very true. But duplicate originals were accessible in the office of the Prothonotary of Somerset county, and it was their duty, if necessary, to refer to them. They could not, of course, have obtained them on the same day, but though the law fixes the day of their meeting, the business could not be completed in one day, and I think it was undoubtedly their duty to do so. That the non-attendance of a judge should be held to infer the disavowal of the county from which he comes, when duplicate originals of the returns which he failed to produce were easily obtainable by a short delay, would be intolerable.

The act of 1839 provides that the judges shall make return of "all the votes given for such office in said district, and of the name of the person or persons elected," and further provides that it shall be the duty of the Governor, on the receipt of the returns of the election as aforesaid, "to declare by proclamation the names of the persons so returned as elected in the respective districts; that is to say, returned as elected in a return which also purports to return all the votes given for the office, in the district."

The paper in question does not purport to return all the votes given for the office in the district. It shows on its face that the vote of one county in the district was not counted, and therefore that the judges had not before them the means of knowing who was elected—and indeed the return substantially is, that Mr. Coffroth had a majority "of all the votes cast as counted before the board," (that is to say, of the votes in four out of five counties which composed the district) and therefore is duly elected. This return is so essentially defective that I conceive it to be no return at all, and of opinion that the Governor ought not to base his proclamation on it as a return.

I regretted to observe in the argument that it was stated by the counsel of Mr. Kountz, that the illegality, irregularity and confusion which have attended the returns from this district, arose from the action of a majority of the judges of the election in Adams, Bedford, and perhaps one other county, in illegally throwing out parts of what are called the soldiers' votes. Their duty is clearly defined by law to be to cause the clerks to make out a fair statement of all the votes which shall have been given at the election. To usurp the power of throwing out, at their discretion any votes as given, is to commit a willful and grievous offense, for which, if found guilty by a jury, they can be adequately punished. Inconvenience from their illegal course can also be avoided, as the House of Representatives has full jurisdiction over the election and returns, and may apply a summary remedy if the alleged state of facts should be properly substantiated. But, as the Governor cannot, if satisfied that the offense has been committed, thrust the offenders into the Penitentiary, and thus usurp the power of the judicial tribunals—so neither can he constitute himself a judge of the election, and thus usurp the power of the House of Representatives, which is the proper tribunal to adjudicate on it. He has no more right to put votes into the county returns than the county judges of election had to put them out, or to treat as valid the acts of a seceding minority of the county judges of election, than he would have to treat as the act of the House a bill emanating from a similar seceding minority of that body. His duty is not to lend himself to revolutionary action of any kind. He is to preserve order, not to abet confusion. He is to obey the act of Assembly, and as no returns have been presented such that he not authorize him to base his proclamation upon, I am of opinion that he has no legal course but to state that fact as his reason for not declaring the name of any person to have been returned as elected in the 16th Congressional District.

Surrounded by the contagious unrest of angry and excited passions, and often

forced, amid such surroundings, to act promptly on questions of the most difficult and delicate character, it may appear to require some moral firmness in the Executive Magistrate to avoid being swept beyond the limits of his appropriate sphere.

But it is to be recollected that we have a popular government, and in such times as these, public confidence, important to every government, is essential to ours.

It appears to me that he must be the boldest of men, who, being at the head of the Government of any one of our States at this crisis, should have the courage to be feeble and vacillating, regardless of law, partial in his judgments, winking in his practice, and guided by merely personal feelings or personal influence, thus loosening the structure of our political fabric, and exposing its very foundations to depreciation.

On the other hand, I should esteem him to be fortunate, who, in such a position, rising to the level of the occasion, should leave below him all the turns of ordinary politics, should preserve his own calmness during the storms that are raging, not as lacking emotion, but as feeling that upon his calmness may depend the public safety; who should combine a thoroughly active, energetic and loyal administration of affairs, with upon fairness and equity to all, obeying the law to which he enforces the obedience of others, compel the trust of the honest and true loving masses of all parties in his vigor, justice and integrity, and thus, commanding the public confidence, cause to strike daily deeper and deeper the roots of authority, and make threatened confusion and anarchy impossible by rendering irresistible the just power of government.

I should esteem him to be fortunate, because—though his task would not be easy—when he should have fulfilled it he would have done for all time, his own honor with the history or salvation of the Republic.

W. M. McREDDITH,  
Attorney General.

Attorney General's Office,  
Harrisburg, Dec. 16th, 1864.

Letters from Gen. Lee.  
The following letters from General Lee, written soon after the outbreak of the rebellion, have just been made public:

Arlington, Va., April 20, 1861.—General:—Since my interview with you on the 18th inst., I have felt that I ought not longer to retain my commission in the army. I therefore tender my resignation, which I request you will recommend for acceptance. It would have been presented at once, but for the struggle it has cost me to separate myself from a service to which I have devoted all the best years of my life and all the ability I possess.

During the whole of that time—more than a quarter of a century—I have experienced nothing but kindness from my superiors, and the most cordial friendship from my comrades. To no one, General, have I been so much indebted as to yourself for uniform kindness and consideration, and it has always been my ardent desire to merit your approbation. I shall carry to the grave the most grateful recollections of your kind consideration, and your name and fame will always be dear to me.

Save in defense of my native State, I never desire again to draw my sword. Be pleased to accept my most earnest wishes for the continuance of your happiness and prosperity, and believe me, most truly, yours,  
R. R. LEE,  
Lieut. Gen. Winfield Scott, Commanding United States Army.

A copy of the preceding letter was enclosed in the following letter to a sister of the General, Mrs. A. M.:

Arlington, Virginia, April 20th, 1861.—My Dear Sister: I am grieved at my inability to see you. \* \* \* I have been waiting "for a more convenient season," which has brought to me many before me deep and lasting regret. Now we are in a state of war which will yield to nothing. The whole South is in a state of revolution, into which Virginia, after a long struggle, has been drawn, and though I recognize no necessity for this state of things, and would have forborne and pleaded to the end for redress of grievances, real or supposed, yet in my own person I had to meet the question, whether I should take part against my native State.

With all my devotion to the Union, and the feeling of loyalty and duty of an American citizen, I have not been able to make up my mind to raise my hand against my relatives, my children, my home. I have, therefore, resigned my commission in the army, and, save in defense of my native State, with the sincere hope that my poor services may never be needed, I hope I may never be called on to draw my sword. I know you will blame me, but you must think as kindly of me as you can, and believe that I have endeavored to do what I thought right. To show you the feeling and struggle it has cost me, I send a copy of my letter to General Scott, which accompanied my letter of resignation. I have no time for more. \* \* \* May God guard and protect you and yours, and shower upon you everlasting blessings, is the prayer of your devoted brother,  
R. R. LEE.

DEATH OF A DWARF IN PARIS.—The death of a celebrity, a dwarf, in Paris, the French counterpart of the American Tom Thumb, is recorded. In his 16th year, he was placed in the establishment of the Duchess of Orleans, the mother of the citizen king, and was so small at that age that he passed for an infant, and so dressed during the stormy period of the first revolution, secret dispatches were sent by him, which thus reached, without suspicion, the imprisoned members of the Royal Family of France. To the day of his death this dwarf, named Richenbourg, received a pension from the Orleans family of 3,000 francs a year, equivalent to \$120 of our money. During the last thirty years he has lived in the same house, in the Faubourg St. Germain. Unlike Tom Thumb, he had a horror of appearing in public, and for nearly half a lifetime has never crossed the threshold of his own door. Not the least remarkable feature in the career of this creature is the fact that he lived to be ninety two years old.—Foreign paper.

THE REBELLION.—We have in reality entered upon the fifth year of the rebellion as it was on the night of the 20th of December, 1860, that the Convention of South Carolina signed and sealed the parchment upon which it had been inscribed that the connection of that State with the Union had been dissolved.



## THE ADAMS SENTINEL.

GETTYSBURG.

Tuesday Evening, Jan. 3, 1865.

Wood.

We want some dry Hickory Wood very much and would thank some of our friends to let us have a few cords as soon as possible.

Rev. Mr. Carnahan, the newly elected pastor of the Presbyterian congregation of this place, received on Christmas day from members of his congregation a purse containing One Hundred Dollars, intended to replenish, in part, his library, which was destroyed by the conflagration of Chambersburg.

We regret to learn that Mr. R. Canfield Elden, of Memillon township, a member of the old Penn. Reserves, and who was captured just before the expiration of his time, died in the rebel hospital at Florence, Alabama, a few weeks ago.

Mr. Elden was a good soldier, and his death will be deeply regretted by his numerous friends.

John Lewis Oyler, of Co. K, 105th P. V., who was taken prisoner last September, and subsequently exchanged at Florence, S. C., died on the 12th of December last, at Annapolis, Md., aged 23 years 7 months 7 days. His remains were brought home, and interred by the side of his parents in the grave-yard at Arcadia, Va. He was buried with military honors, by members of the 165th P. M., Capt. J. H. Plant commanding.

Conrad Snyder and William Ogden, both from this place, and who have been prisoners in the hands of the Rebels for a long time, returned home on Tuesday last, having been exchanged. Mr. Snyder was a member of Capt. Benner's company, of the 101st Pa. regiment, and was captured at Plymouth, North Carolina. Mr. Ogden belonged to Capt. Adair's company, of the 87th Pa. regiment, and we believe was captured at the battle of the Wilderness.

M. E. Sabbath School.

We are requested to say that there will be a Sabbath School exhibition in the M. E. Church in this place, on Thursday evening next—to which public attention is called. These exercises are always interesting; and we hope this one will be fully attended.

Outrage.

On last Saturday night, some miscreants fired into the doors of Mr. Kalkfleisch's store, making holes through and breaking 8 or 9 lights of glass. No ball could be found, and it is presumed only powder, heavily riddled, was used. It was a bold outrage, deserving heavy punishment, if they can be discovered.

Serious Accident.

On last Tuesday week, John K., son of Thos. A. Marshall, deceased, while out hunting, met with a serious accident. He had shot a rabbit, and reloaded his gun to shoot a bird, but it is supposed he did not load it properly, as it burst, tearing the upper part of the thumb and shattering the left hand badly.

Important Notice.

The Board of Enrollment for this district will sit, for the correction of the enrollment lists, in Gettysburg, on the 20th and 21st of January inst. All persons claiming exemption should appear personally if possible, and committees for each district should be selected to see that improper enrollment be stricken from the lists, so that the quotas for the new call may be justly determined.

Snakes in Winter.

On the 22d ult., Mr. Levi Gulden, of Mountjoy township, whilst walking along a foot-path, came upon a large Black Snake, which he captured—a job not very difficult under the circumstances. The warm sun had, no doubt, tempted his snakehood out for a little "sunning," but the coldness of the snow soon stopped locomotion, and produced the torpor of death. The snake measured four feet three inches. Mr. Gulden picked up a Garter Snake near the same place, on the 12th ult., under like circumstances.

Sudden Death.

Henry John-on, formerly of Illinois, but lately of the lower end of this county, met with a death on the 12th ult.—He was engaged as a repair hand on the Northern Central Railroad, but was at the time of the accident on his way to visit Conowago. Whilst walking along the track, near the Hanover Junction, with the cape of his overcoat over his head to keep out the cold, a passenger train approached at a rapid rate, and not being able to bear it, was overtaken by the locomotive, knocked down, and the train passed over him, cutting him in two. His remains were interred at Conowago Chapel. His age was about 25 years.

The Directors of the Poor have made the following appointments—Dr. re-appointments: Steward, Jacob Culp; Physician, Dr. J. C. O'Neal; Treasurer, Jacob Sheada; Counsel, Wm. McLean, Esq.; Clerk, H. G. Wolf.

## Ger. Ref. Sabbath School.

Exercises of a highly interesting nature took place in the German Reformed Church on the afternoon of Christmas Sunday. The Sabbath School, after sweetly singing a number of pieces, repeating the creed, etc., made Christmas presents to several of the officers. Mr. R. A. Lytle, Assistant Superintendent, in behalf of the School, presented to Mr. George Geyer, the Superintendent, an elegantly gotten up copy of the Holy Bible, and to Mr. M. E. Doll, the Librarian, a beautiful copy of Tennyson's Poems. The Infant School, through the Pastor, Rev. Mr. Dietrich, presented to Miss Annie Danner, its Teacher, a handsome silver Fruit Knife, appropriately inscribed. Mr. Lytle received it for Miss Annie, with proper remarks. The speeches were all of a very feeling character, and lent largely to the interest of the occasion—which was certainly a happy one to officers, teachers, scholars, and all others present. A number of the teachers also received Christmas presents from their scholars. The Pastor made one of his usually pleasant and profitable addresses to the children. Such exercises must always do good, and they cannot be too frequently had by Sabbath Schools.—Compiler.

For the Adams Sentinel.

MR. EDITOR:—Permit me, through the columns of your paper, to express my heartfelt gratitude to the members and friends of the Reformed Congregation of Gettysburg for the handsome donation of one hundred and fifty dollars in money, and a Christmas "surprise," amounting to sixty dollars, or more.

The surprise was the work of the lady-members of the congregation, whose kindness I shall never forget. It was a success—planned, carried forward, and completed by them with unusual skill and grace. The party was led to the Parsonage on Tuesday evening, Dec. 22, by one of the fathers, who performed the office of "general-in-chief."

The kind donors will please accept my grateful acknowledgment for their generous contribution, and be assured that as they have remembered me and mine with their temporal gifts, I will, as a minister of the meek and lowly Jesus, not cease to pray that God may abundantly enrich them with all spiritual and heavenly blessings.

WM. R. H. DARRHOFF,  
Pastor of the Ger. Ref. Cong.,  
Dec. 28, 1864. Gettysburg, Pa.

Drafting.

Another draft for delinquencies took place at Chambersburg, week before last. The following in this county were "hit":

BENJAMIN BOB, Samuel Jacobs, Edward Souther, Wm. Wiley, Hiram Krayner, Samuel A. Wert, Wm. L. Gill, Lewis Myers, Jackson A. Powers.

HENRY BOB TR.—Isaac Ingleigh, J. Wesley Lee.

Packing Juries.

[From the Reading Journal.]  
Montgomery county, Pa., is a Democratic county, in which the practice of packing juries, or filling the panels with members of the ruling political party, has become so intolerable that steps are about being taken to obtain a Legislative remedy for the evil.

The juries in that county are almost exclusively made up of Democrats, and they principally local politicians, thus defeating a representation of the respectable, intelligent men of all parties in the jury box, and rendering the trial by jury a mere farce in all cases having a political complexion. Montgomery county is not the only one which requires Legislative action to correct an evil threatening the rights and safety of a large class of citizens. Memorials should be sent to the Legislature from Berks county, asking for an enactment which would secure the right of eligible citizens of all parties to act as jurors.

How is it in Adams?

Record Your Deeds.

The attention of parties holding unrecorded Deeds is directed to the provisions of the Act of Assembly, which requires that—

"All deeds and conveyances for real estate in this Commonwealth, shall be recorded in the office for Recording Deeds in the County where the lands lie, within six months after the execution of such deeds and conveyances; and every such deed and conveyance not so recorded as aforesaid, shall be adjudged FRAUDULENT AND VOID against any subsequent purchaser for a valuable consideration, unless such deeds be recorded before the recording of the deed or conveyance under which such subsequent purchaser or mortgage shall claim."

This is a very important notice, and those holding unrecorded deeds will see the importance of having them recorded without further delay.

The steamer Arago, when arrived at New York on Thursday evening, brings the painful intelligence of the loss of the transport steamer North American at sea, on the 21st inst., off the Florida coast.—She was en route from New Orleans for New York. One hundred and ninety-four sick and fatigued soldiers found a watery grave by the disaster. Sixty-five of the survivors were rescued by the bark May E. Libby, and arrived in New York by the Arago.

The relatives and friends of our suffering heroes in the dungeons and death-cells of the rebels will be gratified to know that the Government is taking measures to secure their exchange. Lieut. Col. John B. Mulford, Assistant Commissioner for the Exchange of Prisoners, will visit Richmond early during the coming week with new propositions to the Rebel authorities, looking to the exchange of all Union men now in their hands.

A LETTER OF IRON.—An iron letter has just been sent from Pittsburgh, Pa., to England. The iron was rolled so thin that the sheet was only twice the weight of a similar sized sheet of ordinary iron paper. It is supposed to be the thinnest iron ever rolled in the world.

## A NEW RAILROAD THROUGH YORK COUNTY.—The True Democrat, of York, states that there was considerable excitement created in the lower townships of York county, a few days ago, in consequence of the appearance of a party of engineers, &amp;c., surveying a route for a railroad from the city of New York to Washington city, as direct or as near an air line as the surface of the country will admit. The route enters York county at Wrightsville, and proceeds in a southerly direction, passing through Windsor, York and Hopewell townships, immediately through Wintersville, in Hopewell, thence through Shrewsbury township to the Maryland line, entering that State between the villages of New Market and New Freedom.

PARTIES TO A SUIT AS WITNESSES.—Within a very short time it has been discovered that in an appropriation bill passed by Congress on the 2d of July, 1861, there occurs the following proviso to the third section: "Provided that in the courts of the United States there shall be no exclusion of any witness on account of color, war, in civil actions, because he is a party to or interested in the issue tried." This introduces into the United States courts the practice now in force in England, where plaintiff and defendant can be examined in their own cases, when on trial. The innovation appears to have escaped the notice of nearly all the members of the bar until a short time since.—Phila. Ledger.

While Garret Paris was running a muck on Monday, at the Government, in behalf of some imprisoned Kentucky traitors the conservatism of Senatorial debate was shocked by a woman shouting at him from the gallery, "You are a traitor!" Her husband persuaded her into the hall, and begged her to be quiet. "I won't be quiet," she answered. "That Senator is a traitor; and if you men had the souls of men, he and all other traitors would be hung out of this Congress!" That woman was respectfully listened to and not arrested.

GASINE VORACITY.—Old Pop constructed a table in his day, concerning the goodness of dogs for sheep, and drew a moral therefrom, but we never knew how far this appetite ran until we glanced at the assessor's returns of the State of Ohio for 1861. From these it would appear that there are a little over 185,000 dogs in the State, and that this year they have destroyed and wounded more than 54,750 sheep, valued at \$146,000. The curs or their owners ought to be reached in some way, and their voracious propensities controlled.

THE AGREEMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.—It is understood that the President will at an early day call the attention of Congress again to the important subject of an amendment to the Constitution abolishing slavery. It is probable that in the event of speedy action not being taken, the President will indicate that he will call an extra session of Congress to pass this important measure at an early period as it can be done constitutionally.—N. Y. Times.

Admiral Lee, in an official dispatch dated on Tuesday, to the Secretary of the Navy, reports that he has destroyed a new fort at Chickasaw, Alabama, and all the enemy's means of crossing the Tennessee river below Florence. He also blew up two castles and destroyed two field pieces. The Tennessee river, he states, is falling, and has made it impracticable for him to reach the crossing which the enemy were said to be using six miles above Florence.

An eccentric individual named Wm. Colley, died recently at Lockport, N. York. He lived alone, kept a grocery, and willed his property, valued at eighteen thousand dollars, to his relatives in England. He kept his specie in an old boiler buried in the cellar. Among the deposits in his private vault were fifty thousand three-cent pieces. How many millions of coin are thus hoarded in various parts of the country!

Don't HARRY A BOUNTY JUMPER.—A bounty jumper lately took board with a young and single lady at Utica, N. Y., and getting tired of paying his board married her. They started for Washington, and when they reached New York the husband borrowed his confiding wife's gold watch, and husband and watch are now among the missing.

Extracts from the Richmond papers received at the War Department from Gen. Grant, fully confirm the capture of the Virginia State Salt Works by Gen. Barbridge's forces. The place was occupied by our forces on the 20th, and held for three days. The Rebel garrison was dispersed or captured, and their artillery taken. A large quantity of salt already prepared was destroyed. The Rebel account says the works were but little damaged, but this is scarcely probable, as our troops had abundant time to do their work thoroughly. All the buildings at the place were burned. All the bridges on the East Tennessee Railroad between Bristol and Glade Spring were burned by our forces. Breckinridge was at Saltville at last accounts.

SUDDEN FALL OF WATER IN LAKE MICHIGAN.—The fact has been noticed and commented upon by papers published east of Chicago, that there has been since the close of navigation, a very sudden and great fall of water in all the lakes situated near the seaboard. The same fact was observed in Chicago yesterday. During the twenty-four hours preceding yesterday, the water in Lake Michigan fell over two feet, and there was a corresponding fall on all branches of the river, and the water is now lower in the river, and lakes at this point than it has ever been known to be before. In the river the water is now between three and four feet lower than the average water line during the summer season.—Chicago Times of Saturday.

STRANGE BIRTH.—The Sandusky Evening Star has the following: "We are credibly informed that one day last week one of the Rebel officers in the 'Hull pen,' as our soldiers call it, otherwise in one of the barracks in the enclosure on Johnson's Island, in which the Rebel prisoners are kept, gave birth to a 'launting boy.' This is the first instance of the father giving birth to a child we have heard of, nor have we read of it 'in the books.'—The officer, however, was undoubtedly a woman."

THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED STATES.—A western statistician has been making an interesting calculation as to the future population of the United States, taking for his basis the present population and area of that portion of Europe which in climate, soil and geographical advantages, corresponds nearly as well as this country. He finds that excluding Russia, Norway and Sweden, the most inhospitable and sparsely populated of the European States, the remainder have an area of 1,310,750 square miles, with 209,216,224 inhabitants or 146 persons to the square mile. Taking this as the maximum figure, the United States, having an area of over 3,000,000 square miles, is capable of sustaining a population of about 410,000,000, of which the North would have 205,000,000, and the South 235,000,000. A large calculation certainly, but not one impossible of realization.

Admiral Wilkes was suspended from duty for three years from May 3, 1864, by the sentence of a court-martial. The President has remitted two years of the sentence.

REMAINING in the Gettysburg Post Office, Jan. 3, 1865.

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